SUBJECTS.

sanitation of the town and other matters over which the Committees have control.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member are noted for consideration.

100. Suggestion regarding the election of the non-official Members of Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. L. M. Raja Raja Varma (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that the non-official seats in the Town Improvement Committees were filled up at their formation by the local Tahsildars and afterwards by the Committees. In practice, it resulted in the wealthy, yet uneducated, men being returned as non-official members. They did not understand nor care to understand the nature of their work. The Member therefore requested, particularly with regard to the Committee at Changanacherry, that it should be ruled that, in the case of a vacancy among the non-official members, the Committee should invite not less than five educated men from each *kara* of the town and fill up the vacancy according to their votes.

Replying to the query of the Dewan, the Member said that, if the electoral system was introduced, it would meet the case.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. The need for a supply of wholesome water for the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the cry of the town of Nagercoil, unlike other places, was not for a costly building or road, but for simple water. The question was not a new one, but was being pressed on the attention of the Government now for several years. Both Mr. Ratnaswamy Iyer, while in charge of the Southern Division, and Mr. Jopp, the late Chief Engineer, had addressed the Government on the subject. The people were quiet for some time, feeding on the pious hope that, with the completion of the Petchipara Works, their difficulties would be reduced ; but it was not to be, for, during the hot season—when water was required most—not a drop of water would be let out of the Reservoir. Most of the tanks in the town were being used both for irrigation and for communal purposes. The Irrigation officers took care to drain away the tanks before the Reservoir was closed. In the whole town, there were only about 70 wells—public and private put together. About 95 per cent of the houses had no wells. Of the 70 wells, the water in 40 was too bad to be used. Even the remaining 30 wells were undergoing deterioration, for, with the introduction of the Petchipara water, wet cultivation was rapidly extending into the heart of the town and the water in the wells was getting contaminated by percolation. In fact, the town itself was becoming more insanitary by the extending wet cultivation.

Dewan.—The proper thing would be for the Town Improvement Committee to prohibit such cultivation.

Member.—The Committee have no power under the Regulation to prevent cultivation.

Dewan.—It is for the Committee to ask for the power. The whole town of Nagercoil is within the commanded area and it is, I know, getting water-logged. As wet cultivation extends and as the houses are on a lower level, I fear that the

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